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LB 906

tattoos and piercing. He pointed out that if someone develops an allergic reaction to metal used in the piercing, that allergic reaction will probably last the rest of their life. Any time they try to wear a metal, they will have sensitivity to it. He explained that he has people ask how they can have their tattoos removed. He says it is possible, but very expensive, and no matter what, there is usually a scar of some kind. And he strongly encourages the passage of LB 906. And yesterday, as I said, I did work with some practitioners from the area, and I just wanted to share with you some of their statements: I have been tattooing for nearly seven years and have tax records documenting my career. An ethical decision we have at our particular place of business is that we choose not to tattoo anyone under the age of 18, even with consent. And I have worked with prestigious art galleries on tattoo art displays. I am regarded by my peers as a true craftsman. He believes that we should have a clean, safe and professional industry that is conducted in a sanitary environment. And I...and I thought it was interesting too, he said, our clients decide where to get tattoos based on word of mouth, advertising, and the quality of our tattoos represented by photographs in our portfolios. And most of these artists do have portfolios that they include. Another gentleman that did testify at the hearing, Mr. Joe Smith, says: Thank you for the concern in the field of work I love so much. Everyone has something to gain from a reliable, reformed and responsible tattoo industry. I hope we can work together to set forth a strict and fair set of laws to accomplish these goals. I do believe that some of you received this e-mail that he sent to most of the senators yesterday, but I talked with him last evening. He is generally in support of the bill, but still has some concerns with not limiting the age that a person can receive a tattoo, and he feels very strongly that that should be 18. And he also feels that we have the opportunity to set the national standard for a responsible body art industry. And I wanted to speak just a little bit about that age limit. What we have done in this bill is set the age of 18, but require a permission, consent, written consent from a parent or guardian and have that parent or guardian present during the procedure. And I think with the handout that I shared with you today, gives you an example of why. It says teens doing their own piercing and tattoos, and I think that